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FRANK L. HOOGLS.....MANAGER

FRIDAY.....JANUARY 13, 1905

"Ask Me No Questions"

Governor Carter in an interview published in this morning's Advertiser says:

"There was never a reporter for any of the papers asked me about the Pinkham report. The men who were making up that report, the members of the Commission, came to me and asked me about the advisability of making it public. I asked them, in my turn, when they would be ready, and they told me that it would be finished in ten or twelve days."

From this it is not clear just what period of time is included by the Governor, and if he refers strictly to the ten or twelve days previous to the transmission of the report by Pinkham to the Governor the Governor may be technically correct. But a representative of The Star during the time that Pinkham and his commission were making their investigation, did ask the Governor what investigation Pinkham was making, and was given no information in response to his inquiries.

The Socialist Vote

It appears from the returns thus far in hand that over 600,000 votes were cast at the recent election for the Socialist candidates for President, an increase of more than 600 per cent over the vote of 1900. It is noteworthy that the Socialist vote of 1900 was itself a record-breaker, while it was overtopped in the elections of two years ago, when in some states, especially in Massachusetts, the Socialists polled a very significant proportion of the total vote. In Massachusetts they were 11 per cent of the whole. Just what the present percentage of increase is remains for the complete election tables to disclose, but it cannot be questioned that in some states, conspicuously Illinois and perhaps New York, the figures will be surprising.

In computing the Socialist's position in American politics it is necessary of late years to combine the votes cast for the candidates of the two wings of that party. This year the Debs ticket was the most generally supported. In Illinois his vote was especially heavy, that fact being due doubtless to his personal popularity and the sympathy for him in his position as a labor leader. But it is also probably true that many votes were cast for one or the other of these Socialist tickets by temporarily dissatisfied Democrats who were disappointed by the action of the St. Louis convention on the currency question. If their departure from their former party is permanent the Socialist propaganda may become a determining force in our politics. If, however, they voted for one of the Socialist candidates merely to vent their displeasure at this time, the marked increase in the vote may not be so significant.

Yet the phenomenon remains that this is a steadily growing percentage. What would be accomplished by an organization which could unite the two branches of the Socialists and present a candidate of marked ability is a question of much speculative interest.

What Is a Public Document?

"Besides, I do not consider the Pinkham report a public document, anyway. The public is not paying for it."—Governor Carter in a published interview.

If it isn't a public document what is the Governor of the Territory doing with it? Didn't the Governor appoint the commission? Didn't the commission report to the Governor? Hasn't the Governor announced his intention of forwarding it for the purpose of giving information to public officials? Didn't the Governor in his letter of instructions to Pinkham urge him to have the report ready "so that the very latest information can be in hand before Congress meets"? Didn't the Governor sign this letter, "G. R. Carter, Governor?" Was not the investigation made by Pinkham, who is a public official? Was it not intended to influence the action of Congress in matters affecting the whole population of the Territory? In other words has it not every element of a public document? Then is it a public document, or a private snap?

Wagner And The Simple Life

Not since "Uncle Tom's Cabin" has any personality or any book so profoundly influenced the American people as Charles Wagner and his book, "The Simple Life." The wonderful personality of Wagner is the element that gives his preaching and his writing such strength and influence. He was born in Alsace when it was French Territory. His life has been spent in France, indeed mainly in Paris. Yet it is out of the heart of the nation and the city which in popular estimation stand pre-eminently for artificiality, that has come this message of repose, this call to essential truth. The "simple life" as Wagner preaches it is no system of conventional life such as monasticism is in its ultimate reduction, nor such as the various communities of modern times have sought to establish as an antidote to the stress of civilization. Wagner does not propose to take life out of the channels of earnest work and progress, at all. He simply seeks to eliminate from it the harassing features, the wearing features, the false estimates in which unessentials are held. The quality of his writing which has had such influence on both sides of the Atlantic may be judged from the following:

I have spoken too fully elsewhere of systematizing amusements for the young, to return to it here in detail. But I wish to say in substance what cannot be too often repeated: If you wish youth to be moral, do not neglect its pleasures, or leave to chance the task of providing them. You will perhaps say that young people do not like to have their amusements submitted to regulations, and that besides, in our day, they are already over-spoiled and divert themselves only too much. I shall reply, first, that one may suggest ideas, indicate directions, offer opportunities for amusement, without making any regulations whatever. In the second place, I shall make you see that you deceive yourselves in thinking youth has too much diversion. Aside from amusements that are artificial, enervating and immoral, that blight life instead of making it bloom in splendor, there are very few left today. Abuse, that enemy of legitimate use, has so befouled the world, that it is becoming difficult to touch anything but what is unclean; whence watchfulness, warnings and endless prohibitions. One can hardly stir without encountering something that resembles unhealthy pleasure. Among young people of today, particularly the self-respecting, the dearth of amusements causes real suffering. One is not weaned from this generous wine without discomfort. Impossible to prolong this state of affairs without deepening the shadow round the heads of the younger generations. We must come to their aid. Our children are heirs of a joyless world. We bequeath them cares, hard questions, a life heavy with shackles and complexities. Let us at least make an effort to brighten the morning of their days. Let us interest ourselves in their sports, find them pleasure-grounds, open to them our hearts and our homes. Let us bring the family into our amusements. Let gaiety cease to be a commodity of export. Let us call in our sons, whom our gloomy interiors send out into the street, and our daughters, moping in dismal solitude. Let us multiply anniversaries, family parties, and excursions. Let us raise good humor in our homes to the height of an institution. Let the schools, too, do their part. Let masters and students—school-boys and college-boys—meet together oftener for amuse-

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ment. It will be so much the better for serious work. There is no such aid to understanding one's professor as to have laughed in his company; and conversely, to be well understood a pupil must be met elsewhere than in class or examination.

And who will furnish the money? What a question! That is exactly the error. Pleasure and money: people take them for the two wings of the same bird! a gross illusion! Pleasure, like all other truly precious things in this world, cannot be bought or sold. If you wish to be amused, you must do your part toward it; if you can do it, and find it desirable. But I assure you it is not indispensable. Pleasure and simplicity are two old acquaintances. Entertain simply, meet your friends simply. If you come from work well done, are as amiable and genuine as possible toward your companions, and speak no evil of the absent, your success is sure.

Sugar at more than a hundred dollars a ton is a realization of hopes that would hardly have dared to be expressed a year ago.

Henry Cabot Lodge, the "scholar in politics," seems to have a pretty good grip on the political machine.

Perhaps Russia thinks that peace with honor will come easier when some more reverses are experienced.

The Friend now claims to be the oldest periodical west of the Mississippi. There were publications in St. Louis earlier than the beginnings of The Friend, but whether any of them have survived the vicissitudes of sixty-two years, is another question. Still, what is now the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, is a pretty old paper. St. Joe, Missouri, is an old town, too, and doubtless had publications of an early time. The Friend is only tentative in its claim to being the oldest periodical west of the Mississippi, limiting it by the expression, "so far as we know." It would be interesting to know definitely if this is so.

A great deal of stress seems to have been laid, in the Smoot investigation, upon the endowment robe said to be worn by all Mormons who have gone through the Endowment House ceremonies. There seems to be some doubt in the minds of the Senate committee and those who heard the testimony as to the endowment robe, as to whether the testimony is reliable or not. In

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Utah there is no doubt, and little disguise of the endowment robe, its being unremittably worn, and its symbolism. Anyone who has lived any length of time in Utah will tell you that every Mormon who has received the right to wear an endowment robe, never omits to wear it. Such garments are on sale at Mormon stores in varying quality to suit the purse of different believers, though none but Mormons can buy them. The endowment robe is never wholly out of contact with a true Mormon. When the bath is taken the robe of course is taken off the body, but is wrapped around the arm, or in some similar way is kept in contact with the person. Indeed it is an openly talked of thing in Utah that because of the inconvenience of taking a bath and at the same time not entirely separating the endowment robe from the body, a great many Mormons never take baths, and a great many more don't take them as often as they ought. Abundant evidence of the fact of such garments and of their use is found in the case of Mormons injured by accident and taken to hospitals for treatment, and of bodies of Mormons dead from violence and taken to morgues.

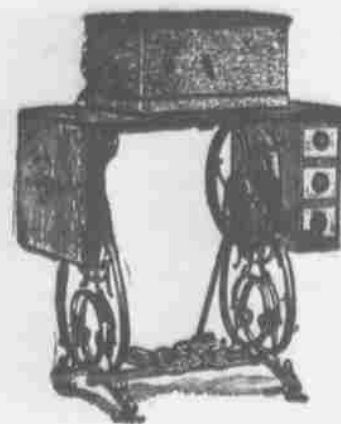
REAL MONEY.

John D. Rockefeller's reported gift of "two or three millions" to the University of Chicago has dwindled to \$60,000; but this is real money, with the Chicagoese squeezed out.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

THE ROTTEN BRITISH NAVY.

It is said that the much-vaunted British navy has 860 ships which cannot fight or run away, and which are counted on paper as ships of the first and second line. Most of them belong to the "P" class—the ships whose names begin with P.

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